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Identical letters dated 3 April 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, and further to previous letters regarding grave and recurring violations by Turkey of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic, I should like to inform you of fresh violations of Syrian sovereignty that have been committed by the Turkish regime and of the regime's continuing support for terrorism and the threat it poses to international peace and security.

The Turkish regime has laid the groundwork for the construction of a new city inside Syrian territory, in the area of Nadah, north of Bab city, Aleppo governorate. That area is currently occupied by Turkey with cooperation from the so-called Euphrates Shield terrorist forces. The Turkish regime intends for this city to be the first new city in the areas that Turkey occupies with the cooperation of terrorist groups affiliated with it.

In keeping with its confirmed violations of Syrian territorial integrity, the Turkish regime is exploiting the natural forces and flooding that have altered the course of the Afrin River in Syrian territory south-west of Jindayris in Aleppo governorate, in order to control several square kilometres of Syrian territory where the course of the river had changed. Barbed wire was brought to that territory and Turkish border guard stations were set up there.

On 5 March 2017, Turkish forces attacked the villages of Sakhrah and Skuzan, which are in Kassab district, Ladhiqiyah governorate, and cut down 300 pine and oak trees that covered a 15-dunum area of Syrian territory. The Turkish forces stole those trees and took them into Turkish territory.

On 13 March 2017, Turkish military forces, backed by armoured vehicles and vehicles equipped with heavy machine guns, infiltrated Syrian territory near the village of Jaflah, which is part of Shaykh al-Hadid district in the Afrin area, Aleppo governorate, and cut down hundreds of olive trees belonging to Syrian civilians from the area, with a view to building a barrier wall. Turkish military forces also infiltrated Syrian territory near the town of Dayk Madash, which is located in Shiran district north of the city of Afrin in Aleppo governorate, and proceeded to assemble on a tall hill overlooking the entire region. Turkish military forces also occupied Syrian territory near the villages of Fawz and Hita in the area of Jisr al-Shughur in Idlib governorate, where they carried out excavation work and built a road and a barrier wall.

The Turkish regime recently formed two new terrorist organizations, which it has named Coastal Shield and Orontes Shield; it grants Turkish citizenship as well as a monthly stipend of $400 to each terrorist who joins either of those terrorist groups. Turkish military forces have occupied large swathes of Syrian territory near Uqayribat and in the town of Atmah in Idlib governorate, where they bulldozed the soil and set up huge training camps for the aforementioned terrorist organizations.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic strongly condemns the Turkish Government's continued attacks on the Syrian people and Syrian sovereignty. It once again calls on the Security Council to fulfil its responsibility to preserve international peace and security and put an end to the Turkish regime's outrageous violations of the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and all Security Council resolutions on Syria and counter-terrorism, as well as the regime's violation of the principles of friendly relations and good-neighbourliness among States endorsed by the General Assembly. The Turkish Government must be held accountable for those violations. It must also be compelled to halt its support for terrorism and immediately implement Security Council resolutions on counter-terrorism.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mounzer **Mounzer**
Minister Plenipotentiary
Chargé d'affaires a.i.